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FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8906
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 8720
RUEHN/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0032
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 1252
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 0358
RUEHBV/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB PRIORITY 0033
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ PRIORITY 0337
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0336
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY 0330
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAAIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH AFB UK PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 000347

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W, INR/AA, DS/IP/AF, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/OSAC,
CA/OCS/ACS/AF FOR MESARITI
ZAGREB FOR AMBASSADOR BRADTKE
WARSAW FOR LISA PIASCIK
CIUDAD JUAREZ FOR DONNA BLAIR
OSLO FOR HELENA SCHRADER
ISTANBUL FOR TASHAWNA SMITH
SAO PAULO FOR ANDREW WITHERSPOON
DOE FOR GPERSON, CAROLYN GAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS, SRENENDER, DFIELDS
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS USTR FOR ASST USTR FLISER
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS OPIC FOR ZHAN AND MSTUCKART
STATE PASS TDA FOR NCABOT
STATE PASS EXIM FOR JRICHTER
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/2017

TAGS: ASEC CASC EPET KDEM NI PGOV PREL

SUBJECT: SITREP 12: PROOF OF LIFE FOR AMCIT STAPLETON;
DEMANDS CLARIFIED

REF: A. LAGOS 344
B. LAGOS 322

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Classified By: Consul General Brian L. Browne for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (C) Summary: Amcit John Stapleton called Chevron representatives May 16 to say that he and the other five captives are well, and have received the medicines sent to them. The militants are demanding a generator and a source of potable water in exchange for release of the hostages. Four American citizens employed by Global Industries (GI) who were abducted May 8 remain hostages. End Summary.

Bayelsa/Chevron: Proof of Life for Amcit Stapleton

12. (C) American citizen John Stapleton called Chevron May 16. Stapleton, kidnapped on May 1 with four Italian

nationals, and one Croatian, told Chevron that he and the others were well. The medications Chevron sent had been received by the hostages. Stapleton also clarified the militants' demands; they are asking that a generator and a source of potable water for the community be provided to them. (Comment: This demand seems quite modest and of the type that would be susceptible to inclusion in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the company and a community. However, Chevron has no MOU with the local community as there has not been a sufficient nexus between the company's operations and that community, according to Chevron. Moreover, the modest demand might be a feint to entice Chevron into negotiating only to present much larger demands once Chevron has walked to the negotiating table. End comment)

¶3. (C) At the daily crisis management meeting, Chevron security sources reported the hostages may have been moved to another location to keep them out of harm's way. The consultants noted that the May 16 attacks on Governor Jonathan's house and a nearby police station in Bayelsa State made the choice of Government House inappropriate for the hand over of hostages, when that event occurs; as a result, the consultants are arranging an alternate handover point. A recent raid by Commander Ebikabowei (Ref B) on the Ekeni village near Ezetu, near where Chevron believes the hostages are being held, could impact on the release of the hostages, the security consultants said.

¶4. (C) On May 15, Dr. Godknows Igali, Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government, cryptically told Chevron "something more than money" would be needed to secure the hostages' release. The State Security Service (SSS), when asked for a status report, referred Chevron to the Deputy Governor; SSS nonetheless agreed to meet Chevron about the case. Chevron

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Managing Director Fred Nelson plans to visit Yenagoa on May 17 to meet Bayelsa Governor and Vice President-elect Goodluck Jonathan and Governor-elect Timipre Sylva.

Delta/GI: GI Initiating Government Meetings

¶5. (C) American citizens Kevin Faller, Christopher Gay, Michael Rousell, and Larry Plake remain hostages after being abducted on May 8. On May 16, Global Industries (GI) said they received a message from one of the hostage's via a family member requesting GI expedite their release.

¶6. (C) As of May 16, GI has had no reciprocated contact with any Delta state government or security official. However, Chevron has arranged for GI representatives to meet Delta Governor-elect Emmanuel Uduaghan in Abuja and Secretary to the State Government Ovie Omo-Agege in Warri on May 16. If these meetings prove unsuccessful, GI will consider requesting Bayelsa State Secretary Dr. Igali's participation.

¶7. (C) On May 16, GI received a message from someone referred to as "Egbema I" (Ref B) who claimed responsibility for the May 8 kidnapping. The caller said the kidnapping was done in response to the marginalization of Ijaw youth. These same statements were reported in the press on May 16.

BROWNE